

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 9, 15, 22, 25, 28 and 30-56 without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 1-8, 10-14, 16-21, 23, 24, 26, 27 and 29 as follows.

1. (Amended) An image processing device connected to a scanner unit for generating a first image signal by reading an original, comprising:

[a scanner unit for inputting an image signal;]

a bus to which the first image signal [input from said scanner unit] is supplied;

a control unit for accessing said bus;

A₁ a first bidirectional interface for [performing transmission/reception of the] receiving a second image signal [between said bus and] from an external computer; and

a second bidirectional interface[, having the same data standards as those of said first bidirectional interface,] for [performing transmission/reception of] transmitting the first or second image signal [between said bus and] to a printer unit,

wherein said second bidirectional interface receives a first status signal related to the printer unit, and

wherein said first bidirectional interface transmits the first status signal and a second status signal related to the scanner unit to the external computer.

2. (Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein [said] the printer unit is arranged outside said device.

3. (Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein [said] the printer unit is arranged in said device.

4. (Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said second bidirectional interface transmits the first image signal to the external computer, and the external computer performs predetermined image processing [of] on the first image signal [received through] transmitted by said first bidirectional interface to generate the second image signal.

5. (Amended) The device according to claim 4, wherein [said scanner unit inputs] the first image signal is a color image signal, and the predetermined image processing includes [processing of] controlling a color balance of the color image signal [read from said scanner unit].

6. (Amended) The device according to claim 5, wherein the color image signal [input from said scanner unit] includes R, G, and B signals, and the processing of controlling color balance is performed by adjusting intensities of the R, G, and B signals.

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7. (Amended) The device according to claim 4, wherein the predetermined image processing includes processing of controlling a resolution of the first image signal [read from said scanner unit].

8. (Amended) The device according to claim 4, wherein the predetermined image processing includes [processing of] controlling a read magnification of the first image signal [in said scanner unit].

10. (Amended) The device according to claim 4, further comprising a memory for recording set values used for [the] image processing by [said] the external computer.

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11. (Amended) The device according to claim 10, wherein the set values include a reference value determined in accordance with characteristics of [said] the scanner unit.

12. (Amended) The device according to claim 10, wherein the set values include a reference value determined in accordance with characteristics of [said] the printer unit.

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13. (Amended) The device according to claim 4, wherein [said] the scanner unit includes a photoelectric conversion unit for converting an optical image to an electrical signal, and an image processing unit for performing predetermined processing of an image signal from said photoelectric conversion unit.

14. (Amended) The device according to claim 13, wherein the image signal processed by [said] the image processing unit [can be] is the first image signal and is supplied to [said] the printer unit without [interposing said] passing through the external computer.

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16. (Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein [said] the external computer has a modem capable of transmitting the first image signal received through said first bidirectional interface to a public telephone line.

17. (Amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

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[inputting] generating a color image signal [from]
by reading an original by a scanner unit;

supplying the image signal [input from said]
generated by the scanner unit to a bus;

transferring the image signal from [said] the bus
to a computer arranged separately from [said] the scanner
unit through a first bidirectional interface to be processed
by the computer into a processed image signal;

transferring the processed image signal [processed
by said computer] to [said] the bus through [said] the first
bidirectional interface; and

transferring the processed image signal [processed
by said computer] from [said] the bus to a printer unit
through a second bidirectional interface [having the same
data standards as those of said] separate from the first
bidirectional interface],

wherein the second bidirectional interface receives
a first status signal related to the printer unit, and

wherein the first bidirectional interface transmits
the first status signal and a second status signal related to
the scanner unit to the external computer.

18. (Amended) The method according to claim 17,
wherein [said] the printer unit is arranged separately from
[said] the scanner unit.

19. (Amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein [said] the printer unit is arranged integrally with [said] the scanner unit.

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20. (Amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein the image signal from [said] the scanner unit is subjected to predetermined processing and thereafter transferred to [said] the bus.

21. (Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein the image signal subjected to the predetermined processing [can be] is transferred from [said] the bus to [said] the printer unit without [interposing said] passing through the external computer.

23. (Amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein [said] the external computer has a modem capable of transmitting the image signal received through [said] the first bidirectional interface to a public telephone line.

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24. (Amended) An image processing device comprising:

a scanner for inputting an image signal;

an image processing circuit for performing image processing necessary for copying on the image signal input from said scanner to provide a first processed image signal;

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a[n] bidirectional interface for transmitting[/receiving] the image signal input by the scanner to[/from] an external computer, the external computer performing image processing necessary for copying on the transmitted image signal to provide a second processed image signal, said bidirectional interface receiving the second processed image signal from the external computer; and

output means for outputting the first processed image signal or the second processed image signal,

wherein said device has a plurality of modes including first and second copying modes, [uses] said [image processing circuit] device using said scanner, said bidirectional interface and said output means in the first copying mode to [process and output] perform copying based on the image signal input by said scanner [without using said external computer], and [uses] using said [external computer] scanner, said image processing circuit and said output means in the second mode[s] to [process] perform copying based on the image signal input by said scanner.

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26. (Amended) The device according to claim 24, wherein [said] the external computer has a modem capable of processing the image signal received through said interface and transmitting the image signal to a public telephone line.

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27. (Amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

inputting an image signal by a scanner;

performing image processing necessary for copying, on the input image signal by using an [internal] image processing circuit to provide a first processed image signal;

[transferring] transmitting the image signal input by the scanner to an external computer via a bidirectional interface to be processed, by image processing necessary for copying, into a second processed image signal;

receiving the second processed image signal [processed by said] from the external computer via the bidirectional interface;

[outputting] performing copying based on the second processed image signal [processed] in a first copying mode by using [said internal circuit without using said external computer] the scanner, the bidirectional interface and an output unit; and

[outputting] performing copying based on the first processed image signal [processed] in a second copying mode by using [said external computer] the scanner, the image processing circuit and the output unit.

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29. (Amended) The method according to claim 27, wherein the transferred image signal [can be] is processed by